

Harry S. Truman Dam & Reservoir Missouri

Welcome

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir, one of Missouri's most popular recreation lakes. You are invited to visit the Truman Lake Visitor Center, located on Kaysinger Bluff at the east end of the dam. The Visitor Center offers project orientation exhibits and a spectacular view of the lake and dam.



Regional History

Evidence gathered from the Pleistocene Spring Bogs on the Pomme de Terre River indicates that approximately 30,000 years ago, during the last glacial period, animals such as the mastodon, tapir, musk ox, ground sloth, and giant beaver roamed the upper Osage Basin. During this period, spruce forests covered the area and the climate was much colder than today.

The earliest mention of the Osage River was by Marquette, but the first known scientific expedition to the Osage River was in 1719 by Charles Du Tisne, who named the river for the Osage Indians. The Osage River was used as a part of the Sante Fe Trail. The trail was an important shipping route for the gold and silver mines in New Mexico and Arizona.

The rush of pioneer settlers began about 1831. Settlements were made along the Osage, South Grand, Pomme de Terre, Weaubleau Creek, Sac River, Monegaw Creek, and Clear Creek. These streams were the major transportation routes for shipping logs, produce, and supplies.

Warsaw and Fairfield were platted in 1837, both being stops on the Butterfield Stage Line. Osceola became a shipping point for merchandise from the river boats. During the Civil War, Osceola was raided and burned by General James Lane. All except ten houses were destroyed, and most of the county records, along with other loot, were carried away. Roscoe received wide publicity as the village where Captain Lull, a Pinkerton agent, was taken after being wounded in a gun battle with the Younger brothers in 1874. John Younger was killed in that battle. Monegaw, at one time a thriving health resort town noted for its sulphur springs, was the place where Chief Monegaw starved to death rather than be removed to a reservation. The area also served as a hideout for the James-Younger outlaws. Clinton, county seat of Henry County (originally Rives County), enjoyed a prosperous growth from its beginning. The area is noted for its agriculture and coal mining.

The valleys of the upper Osage and its tributaries are now inundated by Harry S. Truman Reservoir, but the rich history of the area lives on at the Visitor Center atop Kaysinger Bluff.



Resource Management

The Corps of Engineers has responsibility for operating and managing land and water resources at Truman Lake. The Corps' management program is designed to protect and enhance the project's natural and cultural resources and provide visitors with quality recreational opportunities.

Land management policies and practices provide for the maintenance and protection of wildlife habitat. Prescribed burns and seedings are used to convert old fields and fescue pastures into beneficial stands of native grass. One of the most important tools utilized in wildlife management is the agricultural leasing program. By incorporating special lease conditions, the program serves to protect and conserve soil, water, vegetation, and wildlife resources.

Over 53,000 acres have been licensed to the Missouri Department of Conservation for fish and wildlife management purposes. Detailed maps of the leased areas are available at the Department of Conservation office on South 2nd Street just south of Clinton and the Corps Office at the west end of the dam.

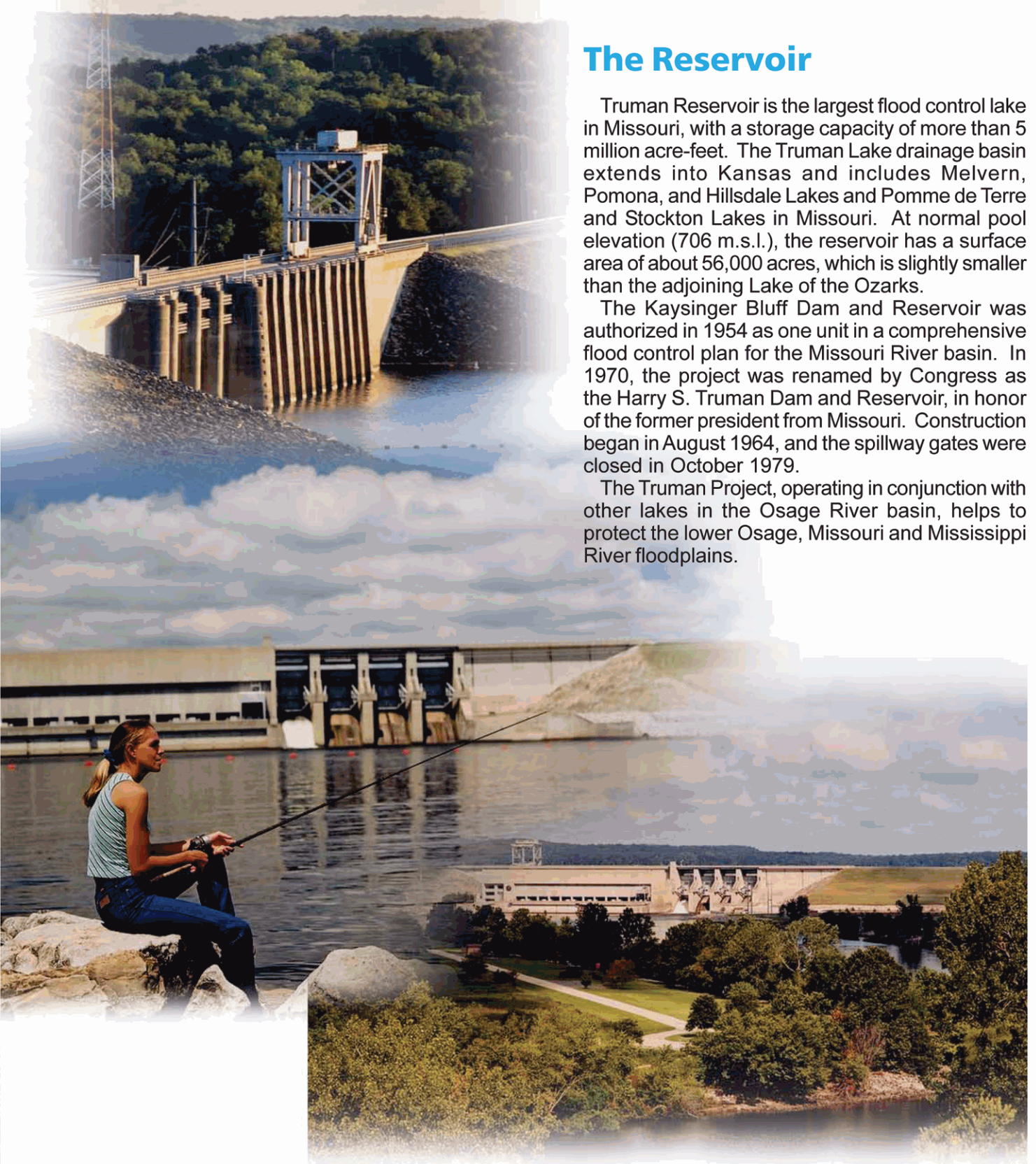


The Reservoir

Truman Reservoir is the largest flood control lake in Missouri, with a storage capacity of more than 5 million acre-feet. The Truman Lake drainage basin extends into Kansas and includes Melvern, Pomona, and Hillsdale Lakes and Pomme de Terre and Stockton Lakes in Missouri. At normal pool elevation (706 m.s.l.), the reservoir has a surface area of about 56,000 acres, which is slightly smaller than the adjoining Lake of the Ozarks.

The Kaysinger Bluff Dam and Reservoir was authorized in 1954 as one unit in a comprehensive flood control plan for the Missouri River basin. In 1970, the project was renamed by Congress as the Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir, in honor of the former president from Missouri. Construction began in August 1964, and the spillway gates were closed in October 1979.

The Truman Project, operating in conjunction with other lakes in the Osage River basin, helps to protect the lower Osage, Missouri and Mississippi River floodplains.





The Dam

Harry S. Truman Dam, located on the Osage River about 11½ miles northwest of Warsaw, Missouri consists of an earth/rock embankment, concrete spillway, and hydroelectric power plant. Water is released through the power plant to produce hydroelectric power. This electrical power marketed by Southwestern Power Administration and is used to meet peak electrical demands when conventional power plants cannot fulfill the public's need for electrical energy. Four large tainter gates, which are located within the spillway, can be used during flood release operations to supplement discharges made through the power plant.

Six turbine-generator units transform the energy of moving water into electrical energy. Water in the reservoir is channeled through gigantic intake tubes where water forces the blades of the turbines to spin in a propeller like fashion. The turbines' turning action spins huge coils of wire inside the generators to convert mechanical energy into electricity. The generating capacity of the Truman Power Plant is rated at 160,000 kilowatts.



Fish and Wildlife

An abundance of fish and wildlife can be found in and around Harry S. Truman Reservoir. Millions of fish have been stocked in the lake by the Missouri Department of Conservation to supplement the existing fish population. Approximately 8,800 acres of standing timber were left in the lake to provide quality aquatic habitat.

A variety of wildlife comprises one of the project's most valuable natural resources. White-tailed deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, quail and waterfowl are favorites of sportsmen. Truman Lake also provides habitat for wintering bald eagles and breeding pairs are often present during summer months.



Recreation Opportunities

Located on the Prairie-Ozark border in Missouri, Truman Reservoir offers an ideal setting for outdoor recreation. Rugged hills, scenic river bluffs and hardwood forests offer some of the best scenery in the state. The 56,000-acre lake offers water enthusiasts ample area to pursue their interests. More than 100,000 acres of project land surrounding the lake are allocated for outdoor recreation activities such as hunting, hiking, and horseback riding. All project land is open to hunting in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, with the exception of developed parks, the project administration area, land leased to the Boy Scouts of America and designated areas.

Overnight accommodations, services and supplies are available at commercial concessions on the lake and in nearby communities. Park areas on Truman Reservoir offer a variety of recreation facilities including boat launching ramps, campgrounds, picnic areas, and beaches.

A more complete list of recreational facilities and the managing agencies appears on the map side of this brochure.



User Fees

The fees charged by the Corps of Engineers are for shelter reservations, overnight camping, day use, and special events. Golden Age Passports are available to persons 62 or older. A one-time administration fee is charged for the Golden Age Passport at time of issuance. Golden Access Passports are provided free of charge, to persons who are blind or permanently disabled. Passport holders are entitled to a 50% discount on camping and day use fees at Corps facilities. Both passports can be acquired at the project office, visitor center, or park attendant booths when proof of qualification is presented.

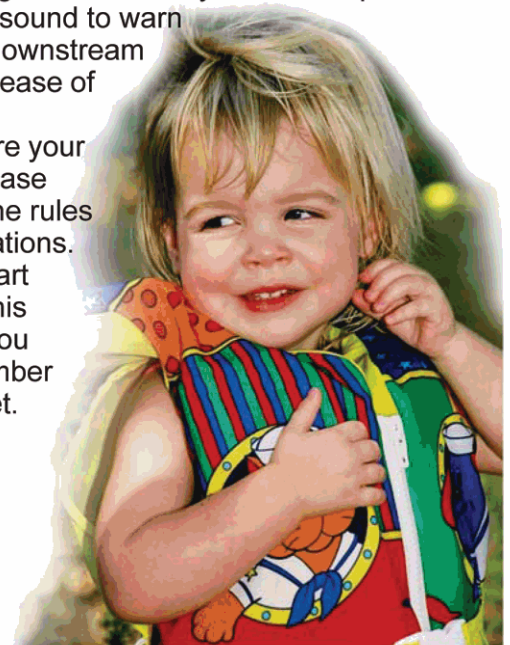


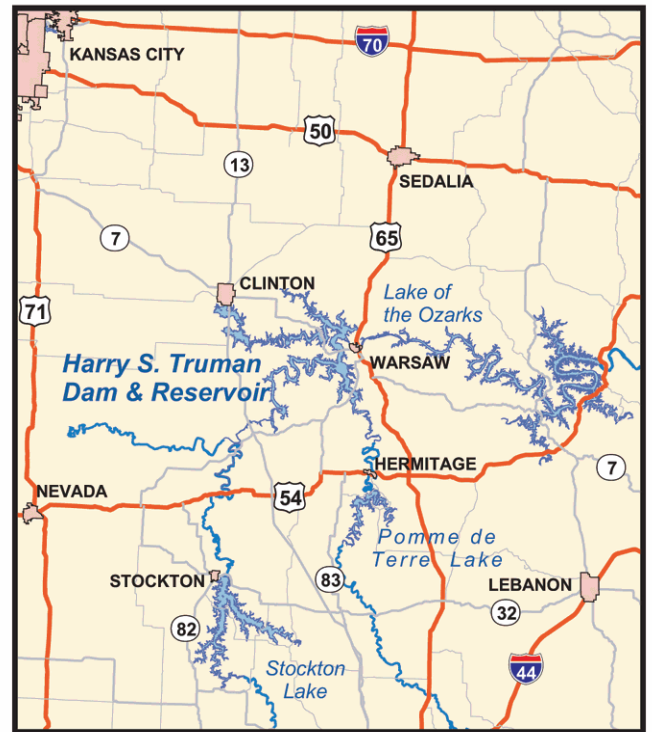
Play It Safe

Truman Reservoir provides activities and enjoyment for everyone; but remember, only a safe visit is an enjoyable one. Whatever your activity - **KEEP SAFETY IN MIND.**

Truman Reservoir has numerous underwater hazards. Be especially watchful for submerged logs, fences and other obstructions. The river level below the dam can rise suddenly due to the release of water for generation of hydroelectric power. An alarm will sound to warn persons downstream prior to release of water.

To ensure your safety, please observe the rules and regulations. Do your part to make this visit one you will remember - not regret.





**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Kansas City District

For additional information about the facilities or the
operation of Harry S. Truman Project

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http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/harryst/hst_home.htm